

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 10910P3 WO/AK	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/GB 03/00206	International filing date (day/month/year) 16.01.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 17.01.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC C11D17/04		
Applicant RECKITT BENCKISER INC		



- This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
- This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 2 sheets.

- This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the opinion
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 14.07.2003	Date of completion of this report 11.03.2004
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized Officer Bertran Nadal, J Telephone No. +31 70 340-3924 

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB 03/00206

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-29 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-9 filed with telefax on 27.01.2004

Drawings, Sheets

1-3 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:
- ☐ the drawings, sheets:

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5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	5, 6, 9
	No: Claims	1-4, 7, 8
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-9
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-9
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/GB03/00206

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: WO-A-0027271
D2: US-A-5639532
D3: WO-A-0109279

1. The document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document) a cleaning implement for hard surfaces comprising a handle and a cleaning wipe. The wipe can have two distinct sides, separated by a liquid impermeable layer, which apparently extends through the substrate. One side is impregnated with a detergent composition, and the other side is for drying or buffing the surface cleaned (page 89 last paragraph-page 90 paragraph 2, page 120 paragraph 3). The cleaning compositions comprise surfactant, silicone, acid, organic solvent, and water (examples A-I). Even if the cleaning wipes are meant to be used with a handle, they do not appear to be unsuitable for the stated use of the present application.

The subject-matter of claims 1-4, 7, 8 is therefore not new (Article 33(2)PCT).

2. Should the Applicant overcome the above raised objection of lack of novelty, an inventive step has to be demonstrated over Documents D2 and D3, as the present claimed subject-matter appears to be obvious over said documents.

Document D2, which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, discloses a cleaning kit composed of at least a first dry absorbent layer, a second absorbent layer impregnated with a cleaning solution, and an impermeable layer separating the first and the second layer (column 1 lines 34-48), which appears to extend through the substrate. The cleaning composition comprises soapy water or abrasive suspensions (column 3 lines 45-62). The cleaning kit is suitable for the cleaning of hard surfaces such as kitchen surfaces, ovens, or frying pans (column 4 lines 43-54). The dry layer can be used to dry the surface after cleaning the surface with the wet layer (column 1 lines 49-57).

The subject-matter of claims 1, 8 of the application differs from D2 in the ingredients of the cleaning composition.

The problem to be solved by the present invention may therefore be regarded as to provide a cleaning article comprising an alternative cleaning composition.

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The solution proposed in claims 1, 8 of the present application cannot be considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons:

The cleaning compositions of claim 1 are described in document D3 as providing the same advantages as in the present application. This prior art document discloses cleaning compositions for hard surfaces, particularly for vitroceraamic surfaces, comprising 1.8 % of alkyl sulfonate, 3% of ethoxylated alcohol, 0.25 % of citric acid, 2.5 % of silicon oil, 0.5 % of thickening agent, from 5 to 26 % of scouring agents, water, and optionally, an organic solvent (see document D3 page 3 last paragraph-page 4 paragraph 5, page 5 paragraph 4, claims, examples A-C). The skilled person would therefore regard it as a normal option to include this feature in the cleaning article described in document D2 in order to solve the problem posed.

Thus, the subject-matter of claims 1, 8 does not involve an inventive step and does not satisfy the criterion set forth in Article 33(3) PCT.

3. Dependent claims 2-7, 9 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of inventive step, the reasons being as follows:

The features of dependent claims 2-7, 9 have already been employed for the same purpose in a similar detergent composition, see document D3, examples A-C.

We claim:

1. A cleaning article having a sheet configuration comprising a flexible substrate having a first portion, divided by an impermeable barrier extending through the flexible substrate from a second portion, wherein the first portion contains a cleaning composition, and the second portion is essentially dry, wherein the cleaning composition comprises (preferably consists essentially of):

(a) 0.01-10%wt. of one or more surfactants selected from anionic surfactants, nonionic surfactants, cationic surfactants, amphoteric surfactants and mixtures thereof;
(b) 0 - 40%wt. of a scouring agent selected from the group consisting of oxides, carbonates, quartzes, siliceous chalk, diatomaceous earth, colloidal silicon dioxide, alkali metasilicates, organic abrasive materials selected from polyolefins, polyethylenes, polypropylenes, polyesters, polystyrenes, acetonitrile-butadiene-styrene resins, melamines, polycarbonates, phenolic resins, epoxies and polyurethanes, abrasive water soluble salts, natural materials selected from rice hulls, corn cobs, and the like, nepheline syenite, or talc and mixtures thereof;

- (c) 0 - 10%wt. of a thickener;
- (d) 0 - 10%wt. of one or more organic solvents;
- (e) 0 - 7%wt. of an organopolysiloxane;
- (f) 0 - 3%wt. of an acid;
- (g) 0 - 5%wt. of one or more optional constituents;
- (i) to 100%wt. of water,

wherein the barrier prevents migration of the cleaning composition from the first portion of the cleaning article to the second portion of the cleaning article.

2. The cleaning article of claim 1 wherein the cleaning composition comprises an organopolysiloxane.

3. The cleaning article of claim 1 wherein the cleaning composition comprises an acid.

4. The cleaning article according to any of claims 1 - 3 wherein the cleaning composition comprises both an anionic and a nonionic surfactant.
5. The cleaning article according to any of claims 1 - 3 wherein the cleaning composition comprises 2-35%wt. of a scouring agent.
6. The cleaning article according to any of claims 1 - 3 wherein the cleaning composition comprises 0.01-5%wt of a thickening agent.
7. The cleaning article according to any of claims 1 - 3 wherein the cleaning composition comprises 0.01-7%wt. of an organic solvent.
8. A method for the treatment of surfaces, particularly vitroceramic surfaces which method comprises the steps of:
 - providing a cleaning article according to any of the preceding claims;
 - applying the first portion of the cleaning article to a soiled surface, especially a vitroceramic surface;
 - manually spreading the cleaning product and cleaning the soiled surface;
 - subsequently removing the first portion of the cleaning article from the surface,
 - applying the second portion of the cleaning article to the surface to manually buff the treated surface to provide a shined, cleaned appearance.
9. A cleaning article according to claim 1 wherein the impermeable barrier is a heat sealed strip extending through the flexible substrate or is a layer or strip of a cured resin on the substrate.